(c) The international FOB price of diesel in US $ per MT on 7th October' 99 in Arab gulf and Singapore Market is given below:

(Fig. in $/MT)

Date	Arab Gulf	Singapore
7th October '99	171.58	181.03

SOURCE: PLATTS

(d) The corresponding retail selling prices of diesel in Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai were as under:

	(Rs. per litre)
Delhi	13.91
Calcutta	14.20
Mumbai	16.54
Chennai	15.24

Disinvestment of GAIL'S Shares

963. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had launched GDR issue for disinvestment of GAIL's share in October, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the international offer of the equity was deferred by Government; and

(c) the international price offered and the reason why the same was deferred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Book Building process was followed to ascertain the prices in GDR Market. Price equivalent to Rs. 110 per share of GAIL was quoted by the bidders for demand of about 6 crore shares only.

However, the GDR issue was launched with a mandate to sell upto 20 crore shares with a price band of Rs. 125—Rs. 160 against the domestic price of Rs. 160 per share at the time of approval. The issue was withdrawn, inter alia, on account of extremely low demand even at the prices below the minimum approved price.

Amount Raised Through Crossholding of Equity Share in certain PSUs

964. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State:

(a) the total amount raised through crossholding of equity share among IOC, ONGC and GAIL;

(b) whether this amount has been used to make up the fiscal deficit; and

(c) if not, the purpose of the crossholding and the gains of these companies achieved through this transaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) IOC, ONGC and GAIL have bought a portion of Government equity in these companies, from Government of India. An amount of approximately Rs.4825 crore has been raised through cross holding of equity among IOC, ONGC and GAIL.

(b) Like other general receipts of Government of India, the disinvestment proceeds consequent upon the sale of Government equity through cross holding of equity among IOC, ONGC and GAIL have been credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and utilised in the manner approved by Parliament, as no expenditure can be incurred through Budget without appropriation, made by Parliament.

(c) Does not arise is view of (b) above. However, crossholding among these companies, which enjoy synergic advantage, will result in value creation for each one of them and will increase their attractiveness to investors.